

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 7 are pending.

On page 2 of the Office Action it is stated that "claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Devgan alone or in view of Patra et. al and further in view of March and Ma. Applicants respectfully traverse this.

The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement.

In the claimed process, crude calamus oil is used and as stated on page 1 of the specification the β -asarone that is found in crude calamus oil is toxic and that tetraploid or hexaploid *Acorus calamus* plants contain 70-90% β -asarone. As explained on page 2 of the specification, a high percentage of β -asarone has been found to be carcinogenic and found to induce tumors in the duodenal region after oral administration. It is also disclosed on page 2 that β -asarone has also shown chromosome damaging effect on human lymphocytes after metabolic activation and as a result, the use of the calamus oil is prohibited in the flavour, perfumery and food industries. the and there is no disclosure or suggestion of using crude calamus oil to prepare 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene.

The invention defined in the claims provides a simple and economical process to convert crude calamus oil into useful and products such as 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene. The claimed process results in a product having a sweet, spicy, fruity and rosy aroma in contrast to the pungent smell of calamus oil. The product has application in the the flavor, perfume and pharmaceutical industries.

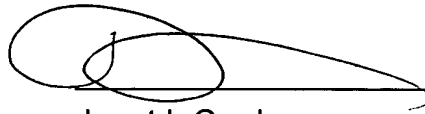
1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene is significantly less toxic than crude calamus oil and this opens up the possibility for re-utilization of an internationally banned beta-asarone rich calamus oil of tetraploid and hexaploid varieties.

The Examiner makes the assumption that the use of alpha, beta or gamma asarone alone is equivalent to the use of crude calamus oil. Given the possibility of side reactions when calamus oil which contains alpha, beta or gamma asarone is used, it is not obvious from a disclosure showing use of one of these that a composition which contains all of these types of asarone can be used for preparation of highly pure 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene.

The cited references together do not teach nor suggest the claimed process.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet I. Cord', written over a horizontal line.

Janet I. Cord
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
26 West 61st Street
New York, NY 10023
Reg. No. 33,778 (212) 708-1935